THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1987

Report of U.F.O. Crash in '47 Called False by Science Panel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (Reuters) — Documents purported to be from the Truman White House that say the Pentagon recovered a crashed flying saucer and the bodies of four alien creatures in 1947 are "clumsy counterfeits," according to a report by a group of scientists.

The report was released Monday by the group, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. The report was prepared by Phillip J. Klass, the Washington editor of Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine and a leading debunker of reports on unidentified flying objects.

The chairman of the committee, Paul Kurtz, a University of Buffalo philosophy professor, said the documents represented "one of the most deliberate acts of deception ever perpetrated against the news media and the public."

The documents, which said President Truman created a secret unit called Majestic 12, or MJ-12, to study the saucer and its contents, were made public in May by William L. Moore, a researcher on U.F.O.'s.

White House Report

Mr. Moore told reporters then that his research team had found a key White House report in the National Archives dated July 14, 1954. It appeared to have been prepared for the Air Force by Robert Cutler, a White House aide, and mentioned a change in plans for an MJ-12 briefing for President Eisenhower.

Mr. Klass said his research showed that the document was false. He said that Mr. Cutler was not in Washington when the report was supposedly written, having left for Europe 11 days earlier.

According to a National Archives memo released by Mr. Klass, the Archives is also suspicious because Mr. Moore's does not bear the required top secret registration number and is marked "Top Secret Restricted Information" — a designation that was not used until the Nixon Administration.

Another document in which Truman supposedly ordered Defense Secretary James Forrestal to create MJ-12, is also a forgery, Mr. Klass said.

The document did not follow the format Truman used in writing letters to his Cabinet secretaries and was created by superimposing a spurious message on a photograph of an authentic Truman letter, the editor concluded.

UFO GROUP WANTS SECRET DOCUMENTS

BY ROBERT SANGEORGE

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A GROUP OF UFO BUFFS WANTS THE SUPREME COURT TO ORDER THE RELEASE OF MYSTERIOUS MATERIAL COLLECTED ABOUT PURPORTED VOYAGERS FROM OUTER SPACE AND HELD BY THE SUPER-SECRET NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.

A NEW YORK CITY-BASED GROUP CALLED CITIZENS AGAINST UFO (UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT) SECRECY WANTS THE JUSTICES TO ORDER THE AGENCY TO RELEASE THE 135 DOCUMENTS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

THE CASE BEGAN IN LATE 1978 WHEN THE UFO GROUP FILED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR 18 AGENCY DOCUMENTS UNDER THE INFORMATION LAW. THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY FLATLY REFUSED TO RELEASE THE INFORMATION, CLAIMING IT IS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE LAW.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE GROUP EXPANDED ITS REQUEST TO INCLUDE "ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE POSSESSION OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY RELATING TO OR PERTAINING TO UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS AND THE UFO PHENOMENA."

IN RESPONSE, THE AGENCY ADMITTED IT HAS 135 SUCH "UFO-RELATED" DOCUMENTS, BUT AGAIN DECLINED TO RELEASE THEM. IT CLAIMED SUCH DISCLOSURE WOULD REVEAL SOME OF ITS TOP SECRET ELECTRONIC MONITORING AND INTERCEPTION TECHNIQUES.

THE AGENCY IS A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT UNIT HEADQUARTERED AT FORT MEADE, MD. ONE OF ITS MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES IS TO GATHER FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION BY INTERCEPTING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SENT TO OR FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

THE AGENCY TOLD THE UFO BUFFS, "NSA MUST FOCUS ITS INTERCEPTION ACTIVITIES ON THOSE PARTICULAR COMMUNICATIONS LINES, CHANNELS, LINKS OR SYSTEMS WHICH YIELD THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF USEFUL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

"WHAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS DO NOT KNOW IS WHICH OF THE VAST NUMBER OF RADIO COMMUNICATIONS NSA ATTEMPTS TO INTERCEPT, WHICH ARE INTERCEPTED, AND, OF THOSE THAT ARE INTERCEPTED, WHICH YIELD TO NSA PROCESSING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES," NSA POLICY CHIEF EUGENE YEATES SAID IN A LETTER TO THE UFO GROUP.

"IT IS THE PROTECTION OF THIS CRITICAL INFORMATION THAT IS AT THE HEART OF THE INSTANT CASE," HE ADDED.

THAT REFUSAL PROMPTED THE ORGANIZATION TO FILE SUIT IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT IN WASHINGTON.

THE AGENCY, URGING THE COURT TO THROW OUT THE CASE, FILED ONE PUBLIC AFFIDAVIT AND ONE CONFIDENTIAL AFFIDAVIT THAT WAS REVIEWED IN PRIVATE BY JUDGE GERHARD GESELL.

THE JUDGE DISMISSED THE CASE IN 1980, DECLARING, "RELEASE OF THIS MATERIAL COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE WORK OF THE AGENCY AND THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES."

THE UFO GROUP THEN TOOK THE DISPUTE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BUT THAT PANEL AFFIRMED GESELL'S DECISION.

APPEALING TO THE SUPREME COURT, THE UFO BUFFS ARGUED, "THE DISTRICT COURT ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTION NSA'S OVERBROAD CLAIM OF EXEMPTION" FROM THE INFORMATION ACT.

THEY WENT ON TO ARGUE THAT UFOS HAVE "BEEN OBSERVED FOR THE PAST 35 YEARS BY RELIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS INCLUDING SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL."

UPI 02-15-82 07:38 PES